

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #448 – Sides A/B/C

Subject: Teresa Foley Guinie – Paiute Indians

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: June 28, 1979

Interviewer: Karen Thomas

(Interview with Teresa F. Guinie in Burn, Oregon, on June 28, 1979. Interviewed by Karen Thomas for the Horner Museum, No. 979131-A) (Sound quality very poor, difficult to understand.)

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KAREN THOMAS: Can you tell me about when your family came to Harney County?

TERESA GUINIE: Well my father came to Harney County ... from California, and he drove, or he brought cattle up for Miller and Lux, was a ranch here, ... company ranches. And then he stayed here ... of Island Ranch, and ... his own ranch up the river.

KAREN: Do you remember when your father was working for Miller and Lux?

TERESA: Oh no. That was before any of us ... come into the country, into the world. That was in 1882.

KAREN: Oh, right.

TERESA: Uh huh. Yeah, 1883 he came.

KAREN: Where did you live after you were born?

TERESA: Well this house up here, where Foleys lived.

KAREN: Uh huh, right.

TERESA: That was right up there; that was built in 1898. And we were all born there, my brother Charlie, Agnes, and myself, Jason and Jessie. And we lived out there until; I guess we lived with, as the family in that house for 42 years. And then we sold it to Tim Daugherty who now owns it, and we are so happy that he does because he just, it's such a beautiful old home. And then they have modernized the inside, you know, ... And it is such a lovely place.

KAREN: I bet Burns itself was a lot different then.

TERESA: Oh yes, remember even when I was ... this isn't ...

KAREN: Sure it is going. (Laughter)

TERESA: And, well I remember one time when my sister was going to the University of Oregon, and she had a young friend who was coming over, and he wanted a picture of Burns, so he'd know when he got here. And she sent a picture, a Polaroid of it, on a postcard. And it said 1897, or something like that, and Main Street were all big rocks, and oh it was just horrible looking. And that was in 1932. And when he came he said he was expecting the worst, you know. And he came across the desert, you know, there wasn't any road either, but gravel and sand from Bend. And it has improved quite a bit.

KAREN: Was your house sitting with the town all around it, or was it more outside of town at that time?

TERESA: Well when my mother and father were married, back in Wisconsin ... and he came here in 1898, and when they came out here there wasn't any place to live. First they lived in a little house where the post office is now, was our house. And of course

she was scared to death of the Indians. And the Indians would come, and of course they'd say "Heap Hogity" and looked through the window at her, "Heap Hogity, Heap Hogity" and so she thought she was going to be eaten up alive. And so my dad said that that means that they were very hungry. "Heap Hogity" means very hungry.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: They'd rub their stomach. But she didn't know what it was in the world. And so then they started building right away. They were married in April; ... they started building this house up here in November of 1898. And there weren't many houses around. I think the house next door was built; Donovan's, and then this other house ... Mrs. McKee, that was built. And, but those, I don't know, I don't remember anything very much until I was born, you know, can't remember something like that. And then there were just a few ... houses. And then my dad got the ranch, he got that property. He first had a black smith shop. And it was interesting, the brand board, we had over in the courthouse, were made by him and ... They were the walls of the old black smith shop. And when the ... when he made a brand for a rancher, then he would try it on the ---

KAREN: Test it out.

TERESA: Test it out on the board. And then when that, then that was sold to a man by the name of Short, it was many, many years after that when Mr. Short was going to tear that black smith shop down. So he told my sister about those brand boards, and so she went down and ... and took them to her house. So then my sister Agnes Kennedy from Portland came and she made a regular project of it. ... And then they put the, they had the man put the brand boards in the lobby of the courthouse. And then my sister made a beautiful plaque, a copper plaque with ... all about my dad. ...

KAREN: Wow, that would be really interesting. What were your first --- do you remember how you felt about Indians when you were a child?

TERESA: Oh no, because they were always around us.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: Uh huh. The Indian women washed for my mother. And they'd come and, you know, ... and the tubs and things were outside, you know, outside was the backdoor and the clothesline. And they would wash and ... scrub board and then my mother would always --- of course that was the big deal for the Indians to get good feed. And my mother would always give them lots to eat.

KAREN: Oh, they would eat lunch.

TERESA: Oh yes, uh huh. Eat out there ... trees. They got out there with their children, and the baby in the Whoopa, the board, we called it, Whoopa. And the poor baby would be up there, and you would think well don't they ever let that baby out of that board. And they'd take it, but never so we could see it. She'd take the baby out, probably to nurse it or, but they were modest in those days. And, but no, we never had Indians around us. So then when I went up there to teach ...

No, I have really never have had quite so many boys and girls around me, with 38 Indians. And that was under the Indian Service there. And they had never been in a grade, they had been in groups, and I didn't know anything about groups. So I put them in grades. First, third, fifth, and --- no, first, third, fifth, and seventh. I don't remember if ---

KAREN: All in one building?

TERESA: Yes, all in one building. And well, ... we had a terrible fight up there one time, with two dogs. ... Well they knew what it was about, but I didn't. So I spoke to the Superintendent ... But the other ... was getting to be real bloody. And I never ... what's that about? And they never said.

KAREN: Did they talk to you in school?

TERESA: Oh yes, oh yes.

KAREN: Just like other students?

TERESA: Uh huh. Well the first graders, I had to teach them to read. And I had one boy, Laverne Sams ... and he was about in the, I think he was in the seventh grade, and I said, "Laverne I think you're going to have to help me." I said, "I can't get through to these children, they keep talking their own language, Paiute, you know." And he turned around and he said, "You talk English." ... (Laughter) And oh, their eyes go all around the ... and so they did, they started in with their little books, you know. And even after school when I was sitting there working with something, ... big charts, you know, so their progress ...

KAREN: Okay.

TERESA: And they would come back ... one little girl back in ... She said, "I'm the teacher, I'm teaching." She was in the third grade. So she learned how to read pretty fast. And she'd point to the word, and here I was trying to work ... do much. Prepare the lessons for the next day, and she was teaching all these words. And there'd be some that would come back, some didn't, you know. And, but they were ... and every Friday why we'd have, oh Friday afternoon we'd have ... and oh they looked forward to that. And we had, oh they enjoyed it. Even today there is, I know them all. I don't know them as

much as they know me. They all know me, and they will follow me home ... all this stuff. But I, they change, I don't change, but they do. They ... I was up last summer for their new houses up there on the hill. And I said, "Well you didn't know that you would ever be, have a beautiful home like this, and a wife and children." ... And then a lot of them now --- at that time they weren't working, they were just, the women were doing the housework. The men weren't doing much of anything.

KAREN: Why was that?

TERESA: Well just, lazy. And they ... and they, they couldn't hold those jobs very long. They'd go out in the hay field, and then the first thing they would be right back in the camp in town. And so the women were really making the living for the family.

KAREN: I have heard that alcoholism generally in the United States was really bad amongst Indians, but the Paiutes especially affected. You didn't find any alcoholism in ... that wasn't a problem?

TERESA: No, I don't know anything about any of the women drinking really. No. But the women always seemed to be ... they all had jobs and the homes, and regularly worked, you know, that they could depend on. They built a ... home one for ... and the next and so on and so forth. But, and the children now in school were neat. They were just as neat and clean, and the little girls and the boys always had nice new clothes on.

KAREN: Somewhere I read that the kids would come into school really dirty, and so they weren't allowed to come to school. Was that later when White schools were set up, or was that false information?

TERESA: Well when I first went out there, there was quite, there were some things, some of the families that weren't as clean as they should be. And the county nurse came

up there, and when they would see her coming they would fly to the four winds, because there was one boy particularly, she said that he had nits in his hair. And I said, “Nits, what do they look like?” And she said, “Well they’re white; you can see them on his head.” And so I went around there, I kept my distance, and I went around. I looked, and sure enough he did have them. Then I went --- and then I went to looking at all of them. But I didn’t see anything on anyone except that one boy. And I ... after a couple of them ... because I could see him scratching. So then I told her, and I said, “Yes he does.” So I guess it was DDT or something, I don’t know what that was we sprayed him. And sprayed the house too.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And so, she said, “Alright, I’m going to phone him,” and she said, “I’ll come up and talk to his mother and see if I can’t, can’t get rid of that ...” That’s terrible. Now he is one of the main men up here, and has a wonderful job in the, I think it is in the forest, or in the mill proper I guess. But he has one of those prettiest homes up there on the hill, and he is very, very proud of his family. And he keeps his yard as nice as can be. And I believe ... now in the old houses ... they wouldn’t let you in. They wouldn’t let the nurse in at all. And they wouldn’t let the doctor in.

KAREN: Why was that?

TERESA: Well they just, they was just ... that they were doing what they didn’t like; they didn’t trust them you see. And Mr. Harriman was superintendent at the time. He said, well he said they won’t learn anything from you, he said, if they can’t trust you. And I said, “What about the other way, what if I can’t trust them?” He says ... and I know my fountain pen, Schaeffer fountain pen came up missing. I tried to get it out of

them, who took it? No one knew until one of them, I think the father of the boy came, and the fountain pen was broken.

KAREN: Returned it to you.

TERESA: Uh huh.

KAREN: What other ---

TERESA: And then he said that they would pay for it. And he did, he paid for it, uh huh. And he did ... was gone forever ... And that doesn't, that didn't happen very often, that they would ever ... jewelry. Never touch them, you know.

KAREN: Seems like they really had a trust in you.

TERESA: Uh huh, I guess so. And I thought if ... little cabin and 38 kids ... somebody came up there to visit, the air was just filled with Indians, they didn't know how I stood it. I said, "Well I kind of always did kind of like Mentholatum." To this day I can't ... And I said, "I just stuck enough Mentholatum up my nose, and I couldn't smell Indians." And I just smelled the Mentholatum. And they don't have that now; it's either cold medicine now. ... at that time, because I guess was the only way they could ... in the washbasin or in the river, whatever.

KAREN: Where was this school?

TERESA: It was up north of town, where the houses are up there.

KAREN: On top of the hill?

TERESA: No, it's down below.

KAREN: Okay.

TERESA: It's right where the church is. Now I thought at first, when I first went up there I taught in the church, and then --- that was the Catholic Church in Where

Father Egan ... teaching there. When I first went up and told him there was room for maybe another building. And then there was just a house that they took the partition out of. So then I thought, well I'll have two rooms, the smaller kids in one and the 7th and 8th grades boys, school boys ... And they were very artistic, they drew beautifully, they didn't know anything about ... or anything like that. But I asked them if they would put butcher paper across the wall. And I asked them if they could draw a picture of Santa Claus and his reindeer. It was just beautiful. I wish I had kept it.

KAREN: Oh.

TERESA: And the deer legs, everything like that, was just every detail was just drawn out.

KAREN: What was their religion like? Do you remember?

TERESA: I don't know what it was. Some of them were Catholic; they went to the Catholic Church with Father Egan. I think they go along with Father Egan up here. But then after he left they just started, they go to different churches. I think some of them ...

KAREN: Do you know if any of them ever ... their own religion?

TERESA: No, I don't know. I don't know whether it was or not --- or if they had any.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And then there was another interesting thing I thought, they speak about this Mrs. Jimmy Louie and she was the, she was the wife of the chief, and her father-in-law was a well respected --- Chief Louie, everyone liked Chief Louie. And he told my brother a lot of Indian stories ... But it was a little bit hard for them, you know, to get them started. Ask them questions, because they ...

KAREN: Do you remember any Indian stories that ---

TERESA: Well, when I was in, stayed out there she told me that as far as she knew that she was the only Indian twin.

KAREN: ...

TERESA: And Mrs. Beers was, I think it was ... and their maiden name was Smoke ... And then this, when these babies, I think twins were born ... they said oh they're such a rarity there had never been another ... because he wouldn't come forward, or say that she was a twin. But I had said to someone, and I said that's not right there is ... And it was very rare, they never have twins, she said, with Indians.

KAREN: I never heard that.

TERESA: Oh, some of the stories that they had up there, that they would talk ... I remember one ...

KAREN: Well you could tell him, if you didn't, decided that you didn't want it to be printed, we could cut it out.

TERESA: Well there was an Indian who died. And, but this Indian was ... she was so cute. And she ... at Fort ... and she said that, she said that these old people have ... ideas about death and all of that. And I said it was --- well I went around the side of the house, I saw all these, looked like rose bushes all around the windows and around the front door. And I said, "My goodness sakes, what is this stuff there for?" And she said, "Well when the bad spirits rush out they get caught in the rose thorns."

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And oh, she was ... and she said ... she told me that, and I thought that was very interesting.

KAREN: Oh.

TERESA: Because that was some of their beliefs, you know.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And then another was, this boy that I relied on so much, Laverne Sams, he had a brother, Clifford Sams, his brother, he has another, but --- Laverne was just a wonderful boy, I could trust him. Asked him to do anything for me, and he would do it. His brother was not, he was the other way, he was ... I never trusted him so much. And so Laverne, he would have --- now I made ... we'd have dances here, for two years we had them in the schoolroom here. And we had the music festival and everything here in town. And I ... all around ... in the hills and everything gathering feathers. And then there was one Indian, Sadie Capps ... and they would make these little hats, you know, ... and they were ... But ... they were ... and of course I supplied all the glue and everything else to make them with. And they were supposed to be eagle feathers or something, but they were just any kind of feathers that we could find.

KAREN: Did you kill a bird or ---

TERESA: Oh no, no. The kids would just find them in the brush, and collect them ... it was most of the boys out there. Because they would go out in the brush and they'd be gathering all these feathers, there are all kinds of feathers, big feathers and little feathers and everything. Maybe sometimes we'd find a dead bird and gather the feathers out ... in a sack and then we'd take them back. Well then the women would come over to the schoolhouse and make the... down on the floor in a circle. And they would make these ornaments, you know, decorations for the dancers. Because they wanted them to look as nice as possible. They were all so proud of them. And then the boys --- then they would dye underwear. I remember one boy ... he had a, bright yellow under suit, you know, the

whole thing. And then of course we had all these feathers and put around. And then the chief's grandson ... Richards had, he was the one that had the little buffalo head with the little horns, just ornaments, you know, just a little thing with ornaments on it. And then ... jewels around the ankles with the bells on them. And ... dancing they looked good. And he had a ... feathers ...

KAREN: Was this a traditional ... to gather the feathers ... the traditional costumes?

TERESA: Yes, for their dance, you see. Now he was, this ... Richards is Marion Louie's grandson ...

But they love to do that and getting ready for that. And then I would caution people here not to laugh, because they would think it was funny. And I said don't laugh at them because they are very shy. And even the little girls, sometimes they would gather in a circle there ... And then sometimes we have various ... with the boys to dance ... We got one little girl, Reva Parker, she was the cutest thing, and she got a tall boy she kind of liked. And here she was way behind him, and she was dancing with her big eyes and just shine, you know, to look all around. (Laughter) They were real cute. I like the Indian here, to teach the Indian children, just as Indian children. But then when you get Whites mixed up with them, then you got trouble. And then they get shy. Indian children as a whole are, can learn well if they are ... by themselves. But if they have to compete with White children, it's ---

KAREN: It sounds like there is a lot of prejudice here in Burns ...

TERESA: ... quite a bit, right up here in the school. But mainly they took the Indian children then out of school up there, and the children ... here in 1948, fall of '48. And then I came and taught in the sixth grade.

KAREN: Well what, can you give to describe some of the prejudices ...? How were they treated differently than just White kids then?

TERESA: Well I think that probably went on for years that they were, I think it was mostly on account of work. They couldn't depend on them, you know. For so many years it was ... they could depend on ... the men. They were drinking all the time. And I know now when we had the ranch, well Dad used to hire, that was when they had the old Indian ... the old wickiups ... And my brother used to have to go after them in the car and take them to the ranch. And they were good workers in the hay fields, just wonderful. And then they of course loved booze. One ... and they'd go have them down in the hay ... and then in the night he'd have to take them back. And then in the mornings go after them. But I guess it would have been faster if they had just ... up there and settle down in the hay field someplace, I don't know. But they were good workers in the summer, you know, in the hay fields. They did, they ... work in the hay fields. As far as the winter ... I don't think they were.

KAREN: Did they go out and gather food?

TERESA: Well no, but it was ... in here. They used to, and I think they still do gather the camas. Camas roots, and there are some other kinds of root. And then my dad used to give the lower end of the field to them for the camas roots. And now they had that ... I think it was Decoration Day they used that. And they were ... they were gathering up those roots in the field. And I think that they prepare them. Now this lady, she was a character. She said that, she said that this root --- I said, "How did they prepare that ...?" "Oh," she said, "they cook it just like a potato, and other things." And I said, "How does it taste?" And she, "Ugh, it's bad." She said, "It tastes like glue." And ... time you

know, well the old people. And she'd come in herself, and she said, "The old people like that, but we don't." But you see now over in Warm Springs, they make that quite a ceremony, you know, they have that roots, and they prepare their salmon, and so on and so forth. I'm going to write something down here.

KAREN: What did you say the Indians used to with the ... when you were teaching?

TERESA: Oh, there clothes were Indian clothes of course when I first came, with White people. And their mothers kept them neat and clean. And they were just the, the girls were dressed with the --- pants hadn't come in with the girls yet. And the boys were dressed in jeans, overhauls and shirts. And they weren't ... to wear the headband and like that. ...

KAREN: Yeah, it seems to me I've read a lot about Indians, just the past, and it seems like people had, you know, they were different from Indians. So there was a lot of prejudice built up towards it. How were you able to, as a White person, would be interested in specifically, you know, teaching the Indians?

TERESA: Well I ...

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KAREN: Okay, I'm sorry --- and you were teaching?

TERESA: Oh I quit, because I was offered that position up there, and I was really pioneering because they didn't have any equipment for anything to go with. Now in 1939, there were beautiful buildings, they had a beautiful school building up there, and it was burned to the ground. The man who banked the fire didn't leave any grass, and it just grew up.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: Oh, it was horrible. But then when I went up there, it was just in a little church and ... and ... to another building the last year I was there. And, but the children were interested, I don't believe I was, as long as I taught here, two years. I don't think they was ... No one was absent; they just got there because they were interested.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And no one wanted to miss school. And, well in case they were sick, you know, then they'd come, I mean miss school. And there was one girl; ... I believe a county nurse gave her some pills. And I think there were three different kinds of pills, like a red pill, yellow pill and a green pill. And of course her mother couldn't read or write. So this girl wrote her own excuse. And she said, "I am sick, I take red pill, green pill, yellow pill." And she said, "Sometime I feel better, and I come to school." And it was signed with her name. ... And so then when she came back she was so happy. And I said, "Well you must be all well with all those pills." I said, "What did you do with them?" And she cried ... she said, "I throw them in the river."

KAREN: Oh. (Laughter)

TERESA: I throw them in the river.

KAREN: Why do you think she did that?

TERESA: Well she didn't want to take anymore.

KAREN: Yeah

TERESA: She had, probably had taken them, just exactly as the nurse had said. And then when she got well she didn't want to take them anymore, so she threw them away.

KAREN: Uh huh. Well it makes a lot of sense.

TERESA: Yeah.

KAREN: Well what did you feel about the B.I.A. (Bureau of Indian Affairs) while you were teaching?

TERESA: Well I, I don't know, I wasn't --- I really, I didn't know very much about it to tell you the truth.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: I was, I first started teaching when, out at Warm Springs. And then they turned that school ... over to the school district here, and this was later the ... overseer of the school. And he came out there and visited a time or two.

KAREN: So the B.I.A. really didn't have that much to do with the school?

TERESA: No. And then after that, or before that it was the Superintendent was there, Stuart Harriman. And then it was turned over to the grade school here in the district. And then the children came right in from there to the school.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: But I was going to tell you about ... Laverne, now there is a sad ... but he was just marvelous, and I hope everybody knows it. ... and he got those boys to, trained them as prizefighters, you know. And they was just absolutely wonderful. And they loved it, and there was one boy that ... Laverne didn't live long enough, but Clifford Sams went on and he received the Golden Gloves at ...

KAREN: Oh.

TERESA: And that was all from Marshall's training. And Marsh did a lot for those, for those Indian boys. And then of course they were great athletes, and then they came into the school here, why they were beating everyone because, and they were a little older too

... than the regular school child, you know; because they had lived some, quite a few years around out there. I think I ... credit for doing things.

KAREN: Sure.

TERESA: That was Mark Osa.

KAREN: Mark?

TERESA: Mark Osa.

KAREN: Osa.

TERESA: And he was the ...

KAREN: Oh.

TERESA: And he trained those boys.

KAREN: Where did he train them?

TERESA: Right here in town, probably at the gym ... And he had quite a few of those boys that --- even today now they do have their little prize fighters and they do just real well. Now up here now, there is one of my former students, and Wallace Hoodie. And he is the one that was drawing pictures for me, and everything we was talking about. I asked him not long ago if he did that anymore. And he said, "No I don't draw so much." But he has a, he used to give me ... in his own family, boys, I think they're boys. That ... and all these costumes, and I think they go well here in Oregon, on these dancers. I've never seen them, I've never seen them dance, but they say they're very good.

KAREN: Do they do a lot of, you were talking about, earlier about some dancers that you had.

TERESA: Well when they trained, those Indian children out there, before they came into town, well they come into the schoolhouse in the, they had the bigger schoolhouse. And

there was Jimmy Louie with the Chamber, he chants. And Wallace Reed's dad was a, beats the tom tom's. And then they would teach those children to dance. It was interesting ... and I was, stayed around to see them.

Then there was, there was quite a ritual I know ... would have a funeral out there, Father Egan would ask me if I would take some of the girls, wanted to clean the church. Well then the women would be over there, and they would ... reception, you know. And you could hear them. ... run up and down. And so then they would leave ... and then I had the girls sweeping and so forth. Well then one time that I remember when I went, the first time I got to ... they were all laughing, laughing in the church, and laughing. So Father --- I thought, well what is wrong. Father Egan said, "You're on the wrong side." I was on the side with all the men. I hadn't even noticed.

KAREN: Oh, they separated the women in the church?

TERESA: Yeah, yeah. And the men sat on the left, and the women on the right. And here I was, just like I would go to my own church, I would go in there in the middle isle, and sat right to the left down there. And so he said, "Well you have to come up here in front." He said, "Come over on their side, and come up in front so they could follow you." You know they stood up and knelt down, you know, so I did. ...

KAREN: Did they separate the men from the women just in Indian churches? Or ---

TERESA: I don't know if they do that now or not. They probably don't, I don't know, but they did at that time.

KAREN: But they didn't in White churches?

TERESA: No.

KAREN: Oh.

TERESA: No. But they did in that old church when I ... And then when they had their funerals, they'd always have the funerals up there. And I don't know where the Indians came from, but they came from all over. Well-dressed people. They was from Nevada and California, and it was quite a deal, you know, to come to a funeral. And then they'd drive out through town, clear back here, and I was only there once with ... and you'd have to walk ... to the old burial grounds. But now I think they ... that. And they do all their, there hasn't ... north of town.

KAREN: Where was the old one, right now?

TERESA: Well it was up over the hill there, west of the old Indian village.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: Just as you go around the old the old Indian village, up here, it is west of the cemetery. There is just a few houses. And then there was a road there, and it went on up into the hills. And it was just up on that last hill.

KAREN: Maybe a half mile or so?

TERESA: Yes, I think so, about a half mile. And the one time that I was there they had divided, you see, the ... were on one side, and the ... on the other. And when the chief, when Louie died, well then eventually you know that his son would be chief. So then when Jimmy died, well the Teemans said some of their family were next in line, and they'll be chief. Well I guess the Louie's had already decided ... was in Louie family no matter what. And, but anyway they ... they would do their chanting over here. Then when they get through this other, this other ... would chant.

KAREN: Oh.

TERESA: ... And, well I think, you know, now I've been up to their feast, I was only there once, and Father Egan told me, he said, "I think if you don't go it will hurt their feelings." And so it was after some funeral that I did go. And they had a lovely funeral, my goodness. It was like a buffet dinner. And all of them had prepared a dish, and you couldn't ask for nicer foods.

KAREN: What kind of food was there?

TERESA: Well, just like ours. There was salads of all kinds, and there was meat, cheese, that was roasted. And there was pork. And they had a lot of beef everywhere, beef, and they could put that in big roasts, you know. And then I had, oh like scalloped potatoes just like we would.

KAREN: Nothing from the native plants or ---

TERESA: Oh no.

KAREN: Oh. Were the Indians, were some of the women still bringing some baskets ...

TERESA: Well I don't know if they did basketwork. But they did a lot of moccasins and ... I ... three beautiful purses.

KAREN: I think I've seen some of those in the museum.

TERESA: They are all beaded, you know. And I paid \$25 for them. That was Marion Louie that did mine. I --- well anyway that is beautiful work. They needed the money.

KAREN: Yes.

TERESA: I did that. And then ... and those were expensive. And then, but they, she charged \$25 for it. They're beautiful. And she worked out her own designs. Now they, the gloves were, they were a beaded glove. And they used to prepare all their buckskin,

and all their deer hides, and tan them up there. The smell was terrible. Sometimes smoke ... if they were smoked, that's fine. But when they wanted to bleach them, they'd take the, and the meat fat, all of that was ... into something. And ... hides. And, but I had an awful lot of ...

KAREN: Did they do the tanning at their homes?

TERESA: Yeah, they did at that time, or near the home there someplace.

KAREN: What other, oh customs that you remember?

TERESA: They didn't do any ... at that time. I think it was mostly with the moccasins and the ... and gloves, maybe like that. But they sold a great many of those gloves, and the men's gloves, you know, for everyday in the hay fields or something. My dad used to wear them. They were of course very plain. But they did a lot of work.

KAREN: Have you heard of the plant called the Wada, the Wada plant?

TERESA: How do you spell that word?

KAREN: W A D A.

TERESA: W A D A ?

KAREN: Yeah.

TERESA: Huh.

KAREN: You've never heard that?

TERESA: No.

KAREN: ... information.

TERESA: ...

KAREN: ... Do you remember any stories about the Bannock War?

TERESA: No, I don't know anything about that. I have a book here by Brimlow ... teacher in English.

KAREN: Is that right?

TERESA: Uh huh.

KAREN: Well I read that book; I guess I didn't read the dedication.

TERESA: Oh, he just wrote that in there.

KAREN: Oh, oh. That's neat, you knew him.

TERESA: Oh yes, I knew George real well. Yeah, he used to come up to the Indian school ... and he asked me a lot of questions ... Yeah, I knew George.

KAREN: Oh, that's neat. Your father never, your mother never said anything?

TERESA: No, ... they never ...

KAREN: Can you describe some of the, I know about, some of the differences that you've seen in the Indian community now, and how it works?

TERESA: ... it's as different as night and day. The kids now ... very early days ... lived here west of town in their wickiups. And then when they got this new Indian village north of town, that was progress, you know. They bought all that land there. But they didn't, there at the ... land ...

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: But I guess they leased it out. But they lived in their natural homes up there. And during the day when they built their new homes up on the hill, they had the idea that a lot of these old people that were afraid to leave their homes that were down below, would buy one of those homes up above. And they said no they weren't. And then they

painted all their new homes, and they all looked neat, and their yards and everything. And I think they progressed a great, great deal.

KAREN: What about education wise?

TERESA: Well they send their children here to school. And, unless their son and ... grade school. They bought ... they arrived before they bought. Now my father was the first one of those settlers up in the river country here north of town, not too much. And the other ... the district at the end of Foley Drive down where my ... And then they, Foley voting district, they don't have that anymore.; and then the Foley School bus. And I always said well that takes me, whenever that bus is coming, I said that's got my name on it. The other children, they said, oh they think that's ... some of the children ... We're riding on your bus, you know, like that.

KAREN: Oh that's cute.

TERESA: And then we had lots of cute stories. There are many children; they were nice children, really. They really were nice children. There was one family; a Mr. and Mrs. ... Parker and they were raising their little grandchildren. I think one father and mother were killed in an automobile accident ... and they came from down a little further south. And they were raising their, ... Reva, Reva Parker, and she had these big round eyes ... But she was a darling and she was a little tiny thing, just tiny. And then the other girl that I knew here, and she was, I don't know what ... but she came from a very wealthy family, a lot of money this family. I don't what this family ... But there was some ... she died in the spring. I don't ... but I had been here ... I think they had her funeral up here at the Catholic Church. Her dad ...

And, but I think they do have their own religion, but I don't know what it is. But the minister, I can give you his name; maybe you can find out, it's Lester Parker.

KAREN: Okay.

TERESA: And he is the friend to ... at the post office. And I don't know, I couldn't tell you what ...

KAREN: Uh huh. Do you remember any happenings that really stand out in your mind? Anything that happened that was, that you just remember, incidents?

TERESA: ...

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: Well not, unless it was their dancing.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: They were interesting ... And we had little plays, because it was really a ... Each time I get them reading ... you know even about the third grade. They each had a character ... a story.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And then they'd read it that far. Oh my, how they did get some ... and that was really funny. And then if somebody wanted to change, you have somebody else in that part, there was one particular part that one boy liked to ... And he said, "No, that was his part." He didn't want anybody to change; he wanted to be that part.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And, but they have a fancy neighbor, oh my. They get --- And I remember that Faith was the one, she didn't like going to school with Indians. And she said I, something about the Warm Springs Indians. And I said, "Well why don't you go over

there more often than you do?” “I don’t like their smell.” And I said, “Well do they have a particular smell?” “Yeah, they don’t smell good.” She thought it was ... And she said, “I can tell a Warm Springs Indian across the room.”

KAREN: Was it different foods they ate, or different ---

TERESA: I don’t know. And, maybe that’s why, you know, wars that they ... you know. I don’t know ...

KAREN: Were the Paiutes liked as a group by other tribes of Indians?

TERESA: I guess, uh huh. I don’t know, but ... that I knew was from their funerals came. That it seems as if every Indian in the country was there.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And they had to have been, they were, evidently had better work or something than the Indians here, because they were so well dressed, and had huge cars.

KAREN: Huh.

TERESA: And they, they just, I don’t know, maybe they --- sometimes they have the Paiutes from Northern California would come. But they must have all had work, because they all were well dressed. They all just having the best time.

KAREN: What else did they do besides the dances and ---

TERESA: Well they had that, I just watched it ... but the men had a gambling game that ... sticks. I don’t know what they called it. And ... gambling, though.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: They were just, go down I think about four or five men on each side, and they ... I thought ... There is about ... and Laverne graduates next spring, Mrs. ... they had the boys come in here and graduate. And there were four boys. And ... There was ...

and Garland ... and Laverne Sams, and ... Sams, I think ... And so then it was about, and Laverne was one of those that fight, fighters ... that Mark Osa trained with. And I don't know whether he got the flu. Dr. Smith told me afterwards that he just had the intestinal flu ... But they didn't have the doctors, they wanted the witch doctors out there.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And so the witch doctor went, and I went to see, I wanted to see Laverne. Well they wouldn't let me in the house ... And he way lying on the floor completely covered with mud, oh completely covered with mud and feathers. And then the witch doctor was there rattling, he was rattling you know, and talking and ... and Laverne died. Big healthy boy. He was better off physically than his brother was by a long ways. And he just died. And I said, I thought it was terrible. And I said to his dad, I said ... And whenever I would meet him, well he'd always go the other way when he seen me coming.

KAREN: Huh.

TERESA: Because they ...

KAREN: Was it pretty common for them to want the witch doctors rather than the regular doctor?

TERESA: No. Well I don't know, they may have. But that was the only instance that I knew. I think probably they did in there; their own way, probably their own people's way.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: But I was never around it before, and so I ...

KAREN: Uh huh. Now looking back on it, you've seen a lot of, in the community. Do you feel that the Indians are better off, continuing their customs and their own way of life? Or do you think that they are better off than the White community in blending in with Whites?

TERESA: Well I think that they are better off living with Whites, but I certainly hope they don't forget their own heritage. And there is many things that are happening now that are, their children are forgetting their own heritage. You know, they know English. But they're forgetting their own Paiute language. And I think that they should reclaim that.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And there is many of their own customs that the kids and themselves should know. Now they're doing that over in Warm Springs, I know that they have teachers right in the schools. They have, teaching their children their own family heritage, and I think it's, I think they should retain it.

KAREN: When you were teaching, did, were the kids allowed to use the Paiute language in the classroom?

TERESA: No.

KAREN: Didn't use ---

TERESA: That's why I had Laverne help me. Because they, that was in the first grade. They, when they didn't understand something, of course they would revert to ... and I said, "Laverne you're going to have to help with these first graders." I said, "They can talk in Paiute." And I said, "I'm trying to teach them." ... And I think I made ... that they would have to talk English to me.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And then when they were ... I had them in the second grade then. Matter of fact, ... they would never miss a day; they would come.

KAREN: The parents, seems like their parents were real supportive of school too.

TERESA: Well I never had any women around, but the fathers were. And Marion Louie was actually wonderful, she was. She was the one that --- I think the children looked up to Marion, and she was very modest about everything. But at the same time, what Marion said anyways was the word, you know.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: Oh, a lot of troublemakers, but Marion was the one that calmed the water. And she would come every once in awhile and visit. But they didn't, they really didn't visit here very much; but they would come once in awhile, and to see if I was getting along all right. If I liked the children, and the children liked me. And I said I guess that's the main thing, and they were real sad, the kids were, if they had to leave. But I was ... teaching out there ... here in the school. I liked to teach the Indian children, not Whites. Indian children were just wonderful, and I really enjoyed them, the years I was out there.

KAREN: That's really great.

TERESA: Uh huh.

KAREN: Well do you have any other things you'd like to get on tape?

TERESA: Well, but I think that, you know, the way they progress now, there is quite a few of these girls who are working in offices now, up there in that new building and so forth. I don't know just what they would do. So now there is work for them. Men, you see out at the mill, and then there has been some of these young wives who have been

teacher's aides up here at the grade school in Hines, and then their problem with child care, you know. I don't know just what the younger women do, whether they stay home or something. But the men certainly ...

KAREN: Did the Burns community accept the Indians more now than you saw in the past; has it changed any?

TERESA: Well I don't know, Burns as a whole, but I know that I guess they respect ... as far as their work goes in the mill.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: I think they do. And ... out in the mill, in the forest if they had ---

TAPE 2 – SIDE C

(Horner Museum 979131-B)

KAREN: Okay, you were saying that there are men, Indian men that were working up in the forest, and they seem to be doing okay.

TERESA: Well I don't know him too well, but the young man who, I think he is the manager up here ...

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: But Jim St. Martin is ... And when they first came back here, he was teaching in the junior high in his son's class. I believe it was Indian culture or something like that.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: I wasn't quite sure but what that --- but he is very bright ... but his wife is too.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: And they were raised and educated over here. He is a Paiute. I thought he was Navajo when he first came. But I, I think his --- I don't know.

KAREN: One thing I, a personal, wanted to ask you earlier, when you were a child did you have Indian friends that you played with?

TERESA: No, I really didn't have any Indian friends. But my brother played baseball, and of course the Indians loved to play baseball. And they had Jimmy Louie, now he was small, and Jimmy played baseball with them. He was just down the street here, down ... dirt road here. And they played down the street here. And then later on, oh it was when I went up to the, teaching that first year I guess in the Indian school. Jimmy said, he taught my brother. He said, "I taught Charlie Foley how to play baseball." (Laughter) It was the other way around.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: I just let it go at that, because he was enjoying the whole thing.

KAREN: Yeah.

TERESA: And he said, "We always played baseball." He said, "When Charlie wanted a team or anything, why the Indian boys always got to play." And I don't know, I said, ... why he said, "Charlie Foley," he said, "always had us play." And he said, "He was always the pitcher." But he said, "I played different places." But he said, "Charlie Foley was a good teacher, and he was a good friend." And you know he said ... always friends with ... But ... that ...

KAREN: Oh. Uh huh.

TERESA: Do you know him? I think she is part Indian ... but they get along all right. But they have a home up there. And they have a little girl and then a little boy. She

wanted to name the little girl ... They all, ... in the old days I guess the Indians liked boys, but they didn't like girls.

KAREN: Huh.

TERESA: I don't think that's the habit anymore. But it used to be, you know, you read in the stories yourself that the Indians, not the Indians here, but just Indians as a whole would like boys. But the Indian baby girls would be ...

KAREN: Is that right. But they didn't have that around here? You never heard of anything like that?

TERESA: Oh no. I never heard of anything like that here. But they loved their children. Indians as a whole, that I have been around, they love their children, and dogs. And dog ... but they still love children. It doesn't make them ...

KAREN: Yeah. You see a difference between the way a White here at school, or the White ... about the children, Indians, is there a little bit of difference there?

TERESA: Well, I don't know. I never thought that.

KAREN: It seems like they love their children as much as the Whites.

TERESA: Oh, uh huh.

KAREN: I just --- I would like to have been back, say a hundred years ago and then stay with ... what was happening then ...

TERESA: Well it's too bad you couldn't have met Mrs. ... she was the first White child born out there at Fort Harney. She died thirty years ago ...

KAREN: Yeah.

TERESA: Now at ... she is ill, but I think it would please her very much if somebody would ... And she is 90, she will be 91 in September, and she has an interesting background. She is in music and --- she just has a, I think ...

KAREN: Okay.

TERESA: And pretty soon, because I don't know ...

KAREN: Do you remember Fort Harney? Had you ever been out there?

TERESA: No.

KAREN: Had you ever been to Blitzen?

TERESA: Yes, but that was all torn down ... Fort Harney was. I didn't know a thing about it. Only what I read in books.

KAREN: Do you remember Blitzen?

TERESA: ...

KAREN: ...

TERESA: I'm not very familiar with that country around there at all.

KAREN: Uh huh.

TERESA: It's more up here in this part of the country. And then, let's see, I think Mary ... was born in Drewsey, and they said that the ... Indians over there. And they, there was a Drewsey Hotel, and ... They worked for I guess ... They would work in the kitchen and ... I don't know anything more about Indians than ...

(End of Tape)

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